

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 4, 2006. Claims 2, 3, 6, 9 to 11, 13, 14, 17, 20 to 22, 24, 27 to 29, 31, 32, 35, 38 to 40, 42, 43, 46 and 49 to 56 are presented for examination, of which claims 9, 20, 27, 38, 49 and 52 to 56 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowance of independent claims 9, 20, 27, 38 and 49. In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 52 to 56 would also be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all subject matter of the intervening claims. Further in this regard, the Office Action noted that claims 52 to 56 needed to overcome § 112, second paragraph rejections. However, no § 112, second paragraph rejections were present in the Office Action. A telephone conference with the Examiner confirmed that the § 112, second paragraph rejection was merely a typographical error and that no such rejection was made.

In view of the indication of allowance, claims 52 to 56 have been rewritten in independent form including subject matter from the independent claims. The remaining dependent claims have been amended to depend from one of the allowable independent claims.

In view of the above amendments, the remaining rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are now seen to be moot.

In view of the amendments and remarks above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In light of the remarks contained herein, applicant submits that the rejections have been traversed and that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated 3/7/07

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